

March 6, 2006

Vermilion Parish Police Jury  
P. O. Box 430  
Abbeville, LA 70511-0430

Gentlemen:

The Vermilion Parish Coastal Restoration Advisory Committee respectfully submits this first draft of the four (4) year CIAP Restoration Plan to the Vermilion Parish Policy Jury for its review and approval. The first two (2) projects listed are too large for the parish to undertake with Parish CIAP funding. The State however, will be constructing state only projects. In that these two (2) projects address problems caused as a direct result of offshore oil and gas exploration and production, i.e. the dredging of Freshwater Bayou Channel and the removal of certain reefs and shoals in Southwest Pass, we believe that this should help to qualify them as state only projects.

Also, these two (2) projects qualify as projects with Regional implications. Should Southwest Pass double in width, the tidal fluctuation and coastal flooding in St. Mary, Iberia, and Vermilion Parishes will increase in both frequency and severity. As the marshes along Freshwater Bayou erode into the channel, the channel becomes less navigable, the Mermentau Basin is threatened, and the Rainey Wildlife Sanctuary will be threatened by erosion from the west as these marshes erode and wave fetch increases.

Therefore, these two (2) projects should be undertaken by the State. Both of these projects have been submitted to the CWPPRA process with one (1) completing Phase I and the other being a nominee project in PPL 16.

The two (2) projects recommended for state funding and our projects recommended for parish funding are listed below. Please note that they have not been prioritized and are in random order.

#### **Projects for State CIAP Funding**

1. **Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation On Southwest Point At Southwest Pass:**

This vital peninsula has eroded to less than 100 yards wide in some areas due to wave fetch from Vermilion Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. The loss of this vital peninsula will result in Southwest Pass doubling in width, reduced storm protection, and increased tidal fluctuation in the Vermilion Bay marshes and surrounding areas of St. Mary, Iberia and Vermilion Parishes. The project is a bank stabilization project and has considerable local support and landowner support.

2. **Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization And Marsh Creation:**

Breaches along the bayou have caused excessive erosion to interior marshes in the area that protect Highway 82. Part of this project area is known as a TV-11B in the CWPPRA program and is awaiting funding for construction. There are several other reaches outside of TV-11B. This is a bank stabilization project and has both local and landowner support.

**Recommended Projects for Parish Funding:**

3. **Oyster Reef Parallel To The Coastline At Cheniere Tigre:**

The shoreline in the area is eroding at 10-15 feet per year. This project will slow down wave energy, create fisheries habitat, slow coastal erosion, and increase recreational fishing. This project has been proposed as a CWPPRA Project. The project creates one (1) mile of oyster reef 1,300 feet from shore. It has both local and landowner support.

4. **Northeast White Lake Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation:**

The bank line at the mouth of Schooner Bayou at White Lake has eroded into surrounding marshes, causing marsh loss. Project would be rock breakwaters parallel to shoreline.

5. **Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation At Tiger Point:**

Erosion along this area has diminished the natural ridge function for hurricane protection and marsh integrity. This project proposes to install cement bags or rock breakwaters to slow erosion and create marsh. This project has been proposed as a CWPPRA Project. It has both local and landowner support.

6. **Prien Point Reef Extension:**

The creation of a reef by the Louisiana Wetland Association will reduce shoreline erosion along Vermilion Bay, and create fisheries habitat. Extension of this project will afford the shoreline more protection and improve fisheries habitat. The project is supported by the Louisiana Wetland Association.

7. **Bird Island:**

Historically this island was a rookery for Brown Pelicans and Colonial Wading Birds. Restoring the island would afford habitat for numerous species of wading birds. This project has been a component of a larger CWPPRA Project. It has local and landowner support.

8. **Cheniere Au Tigre Cement Bag Extension:**

Current cement bag project has been installed and is working. As bags become available, the project could be extended if materials and funding are available. Extending this project will afford the Cheniere more protection, buffer storm surge and protect the integrity of marshes. It has local and landowner support.

9. **Four Mile Canal Hydrologic Restoration:**

This project would reduce the cross section of the four (4) mile canal to the needed navigation width and depth. This would help to move freshwater thru Onion Bayou, Vermilion River, Schooner Bayou and Bayou Chene. It should also help to hold a head of freshwater in the Intracoastal City area so as to buffer salinities before they reach the Leland Bowman and Schooner Bayou Locks.

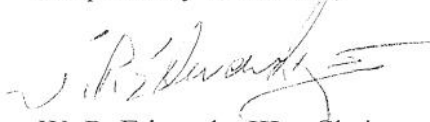
This project was a component of a proposed CWPPRA project and has the support of the farming community.

10. **Little Bayou Chine Hydrologic Restoration:**

This project will entail the placement of rocks on the east side of Freshwater Bayou canal to reduce this huge opening to the minimum needed by industry. This project has local support and would help to restore the natural hydraulity to the Intracoastal City area.

This first draft of the plan is submitted for your review. Should the Jurors have any comments, additions or concerns, please contact us before a final draft is prepared. The Parish's response to the State is due March 1.

Respectfully Submitted,



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